



# HURRICANE WILMA

## Final Recovery Report

DECEMBER 2005 • EDITION III

### HURRICANE DEBRIS CLEANUP COMES TO A CLOSE

The third and final round of citywide hurricane debris pickup is taking place now through December 28, 2005. The collection is following the normal residential bulk trash pickup schedule. For example, if your bulk trash is normally picked up on the third Wednesday of the month, that is when your hurricane debris



City crews finish debris cleanup.

will be picked up for the final time. Residents are reminded to separate yard waste from other hurricane debris and place all of the items curbside by 7:00 a.m. on their regularly scheduled bulk trash collection day.

Property owners with considerable hurricane damage (i.e., significant structural damage or damage from a large downed tree) who are unable to meet the bulk trash collection schedule, should call the City's 24-hour Customer Service Center at **954.828.8000** to request a site inspection. City inspectors will survey the damage and, if eligible, will issue a confirmation number and schedule a separate debris pickup day. After December 28, 2005, any remaining hurricane debris will be the responsibility of the property owner. Regular monthly bulk trash service will resume on January 2, 2006.

#### Restoring Collection Sites

Hurricane Wilma generated five times more debris than Hurricane Katrina. To expedite removal, the City used temporary collection sites at Mills Pond Park, Floyd Hull Stadium and a community drop off site at Florence C. Hardy Park. Doing so enabled crews to minimize time spent unloading debris and maximize time spent removing it from the streets. Within 24 hours of the storm, teams were clearing roadways for emergency vehicles and FPL crews so that our residents could resume their lives quickly and safely. Debris is no longer being dropped off at any of the parks. The sites are currently being cleaned and restored and will reopen early next year. All remaining hurricane debris is being taken directly to a compost facility located outside the City of Fort Lauderdale.

#### Garbage Collection and Recycling Services

City of Fort Lauderdale garbage collection, yard waste cart pickup, and recycling services are operating on their normal schedules. Residents are reminded to put their garbage cart, yard waste cart and recycling bins out on their regularly scheduled pickup days.

#### 24-hour Customer Service Center

The City of Fort Lauderdale operates a 24-hour Customer Service Center. Residents are encouraged to call **954.828.8000** for information or with questions about hurricane debris removal, sanitation services, recycling, water, sewers and storm drains.

### HOLIDAY SANITATION SCHEDULE

There will be no interruption to City of Fort Lauderdale sanitation services during the holidays.

#### Holiday Tree Disposal

The City of Fort Lauderdale is making holiday tree disposal easier for residents this year. Instead of using drop-off locations, residents can recycle their trees in one of two ways: by placing them inside their green yard waste cart or by leaving them out for bulk trash pick-up.

If trees are placed in the yard waste cart, they must be cut into small pieces so the lid can close completely. To reduce collection and disposal costs, the City strongly encourages residents to dispose of trees using the yard waste cart.

Residents who choose to use the bulk trash pickup option are asked to please leave trees next to the bulk pile. To properly dispose of trees, please remove all decorations, lights, tinsel, nails, tacks, tree stand or any other decorative materials.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSIONERS**  
**AND MANY THANKS FOR YOUR PATIENCE AND SUPPORT DURING THE RECENT HURRICANE RECOVERY EFFORTS.**

## FREE TREES AVAILABLE TO CITY RESIDENTS

Hurricane Wilma destroyed 30 percent of the City's tree canopy. Planting trees is more important than ever to replenish the tree cover and restore the City's natural beauty. Residents can help by participating in the City's upcoming tree giveaway or Adopt-A-Tree Program. As homeowners replace trees, they can refer to the City tree brochure for tips on proper tree placement and maintenance. Call **954.828.4746** for a free brochure.



Plant native trees to replenish the City's canopy.

Holiday Park, located at 800 N. Federal Highway. Residents will be able to choose from a variety of native tree species while supplies last. And look for future tree giveaways, to be held each month at various locations throughout the City.

### Adopt-A-Tree Program

For decades, the City of Fort Lauderdale has been planting trees in cooperation with local residents. Through the Adopt-A-Tree Program, the City's Parks and Recreation Department provides homeowners with a tree to plant in the swale adjacent to their property. The homeowner will be given a choice of trees that best suits their neighborhood and can flourish in the designated planting area. The City will provide free delivery, planting and care instructions. The homeowner is responsible for planting and maintaining the tree. Please visit the City's website at **[www.fortlauderdale.gov](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov)** for an application. For more information, contact the City's Urban Forester at **954.828.5785**.

### Tree Giveaway

Help restore our tree canopy by planting a free tree from the City of Fort Lauderdale. On Saturday, January 21, 2006, the City will host a free tree giveaway from 9:00 a.m. to noon at

## CITY HOSTS DISASTER RECOVERY CENTER DOWNTOWN

A Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) is now open in the City of Fort Lauderdale at 300 N.W. 1st Avenue. The DRC is located diagonally across from City Hall in the building that formerly housed the City's One-Stop-Shop. The new centralized downtown location will enable more hurricane victims to receive vital recovery assistance.

Information about hurricane support programs is available at the Disaster Recovery Center from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Center representatives

provide guidance on a number of issues including: housing, disaster recovery, FEMA forms, disaster preparedness and Small Business Administration loans. Reach the local DRC at **954.761.8618**. To find more DRC locations, please call **954.831.3900**.



Downtown Disaster Recovery Center now open.

## CITY OFFERS HOUSING AID FOR HURRICANE VICTIMS

The City of Fort Lauderdale's Housing and Community Development Division is providing City residents with housing assistance. Staff members are working with residents to expedite the application process for disaster relief from agencies such as FEMA and the Public Housing Authority. The City is also administering State Housing Initiative

Partnership (SHIP) Funds to assist income eligible individuals with housing needs such as purchasing emergency supplies for repairs, rental assistance, insurance deductibles, and other approved hurricane-related housing expenses. For more information, contact the Housing and Community Development Division at **954.828.4527**.

## HOMEOWNERS BEWARE OF UNLICENSED CONTRACTORS

The City of Fort Lauderdale Police Department urges residents to use extra caution when hiring contractors to help with reconstruction. Beware of individuals going door-to-door and only hire a licensed contractor. Do not pay in cash and avoid paying a large deposit upfront. Because some costs may be reimbursed by insurance, keep all receipts. Unlicensed contracting is a felony during a State of Emergency. For more information or to report unlicensed

contractors, please call the Fort Lauderdale Police Department at **954.828.5700**.

The City's Building Services Department has implemented an expedited permit program to allow licensed contractors to begin reconstruction work without delay. The program is in effect until December 31, 2005. If you have questions, please call the City's Building Department at **954.828.6520**.

**FOR CURRENT INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT THE CITY'S WEBSITE AT**

# START YOUR EMERGENCY PREPARATIONS NOW



2005 was a record breaking hurricane season.

The 2005 hurricane season broke all records with 26 named storms and 14 hurricanes. Forecasters predict that next year's hurricane season could be as bad or worse due to heightened activity in the Atlantic Ocean. This trend could last for another decade. The most important thing everyone can do to survive a hurricane is to prepare.

- Make a Family Disaster Plan and practice it.
- Plan for an evacuation by identifying shelter options.
- Pre-register for a Special Needs Shelter if applicable.
- Make a plan for your pets.
- Check your insurance coverage.
- Prepare your property with hurricane shutters.
- Wait for the "all clear" from local officials before going outside.
- Be careful of downed power lines or standing water.
- Do not eat food that could be contaminated or spoiled.
- Do not use candles as a light source.
- Review generator safety procedures.
- Stay alert for information on how and where to apply for assistance.

## Remember these important hurricane tips:

- Prepare a disaster survival kit with a three-day supply of water, food, medicines, batteries, flashlights, a portable radio and emergency cash.
- Know whether you are in a mandatory evacuation zone by visiting [www.fortlauderdale.gov](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov).

Stay informed before, during and after the storm by tuning in to local media stations, as well as the City of Fort Lauderdale's radio station at 1610 AM, cable access Channel 78 and website at [www.fortlauderdale.gov](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov). For more information about emergency preparations, visit [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).

## CITY RESTORING STREET LIGHTS

Hurricane Wilma inflicted extensive damage throughout the City of Fort Lauderdale. One area that was hit particularly hard was street lighting. There are approximately 14,000 street lights in the City of Fort Lauderdale. The City owns and operates approximately 4,000 of these lights. The remaining 10,000 are owned and operated by Florida Power and Light (FPL) and other entities. Hurricane Wilma knocked out 90 percent or 3,600 of the City-owned street lights in addition to damaging more than nine miles of wiring. Since the storm, City

crews have restored 2,000 of the lights and are working to repair the rest. The Parking and Fleet Services Department is also working closely with FPL to restore damaged lighting at the South Beach and Sebastian Street parking lots on Fort Lauderdale Beach. Repairing damaged wiring and restoring street lighting is a tedious and labor intensive process. The City appreciates the patience and support of citizens as this process comes to a conclusion. Drivers and pedestrians are reminded to use caution on City streets during evening hours.

## CITY TEAMS UP WITH SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

After Hurricane Wilma, the City's Economic Development Department opened a Business Recovery Center (BRC) for businesses impacted by the storm. This valuable resource provides information on assistance options, including short-term bridge loans. The BRC also helps business owners file forms to speed the recovery process and provided internet, fax and copier services to businesses without power.

To make local disaster recovery even easier, the City formed a partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). The City provides space and support services to the SBA in order to expedite the loan application process. The SBA's Office of Disaster Assistance (ODA) provides low-interest loans to homeowners, renters, businesses and non-profit organizations to repair or replace damaged real estate, personal property, business equipment and

other hurricane-related losses. The SBA also offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans, which provide small businesses with essential funds to meet payroll, pay suppliers, or cover other operating expenses.

SBA representatives are available Monday - Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the City's Business Recovery Center, located on the second floor of the City County Credit Union building at 634 N.E. 3rd Avenue in Fort Lauderdale. For more information please call **954.828.8957**.

The SBA's Office of Disaster Personnel currently has job openings for temporary Construction Cost Estimators to verify damaged properties and determine disaster loan amounts. For more information or to set up an interview, please call the Office of Disaster Personnel at **954.828.6333**. Resumes can be faxed to **202.481.6563**.

**WWW.FORTLAUDERDALE.GOV AND TUNE IN TO RADIO 1610 AM**



# VITAL FLOOD INFORMATION

Hurricanes are one of the most common causes of flooding. Unfortunately, flooding is not covered by homeowners insurance, which can have devastating consequences after a storm. Preparation is the best way to protect against loss from a hurricane and it's never too early to start.

Many Fort Lauderdale residents live in or near a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), which is a zone where flooding may occur in the event of heavy rainfall, a hurricane or other natural phenomenon. As a result, residents may elect or be required to obtain flood insurance, which is available to all residents as a result of the City's participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

To help residents save money on their flood insurance premiums, the City of Fort Lauderdale participates in NFIP's voluntary Community Rating System (CRS) program, which recognizes communities whose efforts go beyond the NFIP's minimum standards. As part of the CRS program, the City implements and promotes public information and floodplain management activities regarding flood hazards, flood insurance, and ways to

reduce flood damage. In exchange, the NFIP offers homeowners a discount on flood insurance premiums each year, which currently reflects a 10 percent savings for Fort Lauderdale residents.

For more information about the NFIP or CRS programs, please visit <http://www.training.fema.gov/emiweb/CRS/> or [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov).

Residents can look up their flood zone online; simply go to [www.fortlauderdale.gov/gis/create.htm](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/gis/create.htm) and enter the property address in the "Property Information Reporter." Your flood zone information will display in the search results table next to the text that reads "Fema Flood Information." Your home is located in a SFHA if your flood information is in Zone A, Zone AE, Zone AH, Zone AO or Zone VE.

Residents can also determine if their home is located in a SFHA by obtaining a local Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) from the City's Planning and Zoning Department. To request a FIRM, please call **954.828.5203** or **954.828.3266**. To view a map, visit [www.fortlauderdale.gov/gis/gallery.htm](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/gis/gallery.htm).

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Fort Lauderdale 24-hour Customer Service	<b>954.828.8000</b>
Fort Lauderdale Emergency Permits	<b>954.828.6520</b>
Fort Lauderdale Business Assistance	<b>954.828.6855</b>
Fort Lauderdale Parks and Recreation	<b>954.828.7275</b>
Disaster Assistance	<b>800.621.3362</b>
Disaster Recovery Center	<b>954.761.8618</b>

## CITY COMMISSION

Jim Naugle, Mayor  
Christine Teel, Vice Mayor - District I  
Dean J. Trantalis, Commissioner - District II  
Carlton B. Moore, Commissioner - District III  
Cindi Hutchinson, Commissioner - District IV  
City Commission Office - **954.828.5003**

CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
PUBLIC INFORMATION DEPARTMENT  
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FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33301

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE PUBLIC INFORMATION DEPARTMENT AT 954.828.4PI0 (4746)**

If you would like this publication in an alternate format (large print, audio tape), contact the City of Fort Lauderdale Public Information Department at 954.828.4PI0 (4746).

Si desea copias en español de esta información, sírvase llamar al teléfono 954.828.4746.

Poun mande kopi enfòmasyon sa yo an kreyòl, telefòn 954.828.4746.